

TULSA GARDEN CENTER
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa
Tulsa
Oklahoma

HALS OK-24
OK-24

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

TULSA GARDEN CENTER

HALS NO. OK-24

Location: 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma
Lat: 36.129279 Long: -95.974299

Significance: The Tulsa Garden Center is housed in an Italian Renaissance style villa designed by Tulsa architect Nobel B. Fleming in 1919 for affluent entrepreneur David Travis. The "oil boom" during this era created fabulous wealth for many Tulsans, and as a result, many grandiose mansions with elaborately landscaped gardens were built throughout the city. The City of Tulsa acquired the property in 1954, and over the years, it has developed into a great historic, cultural, and educational resource for the people of Tulsa.

History: Part of the historic Woodward Park Complex, the Tulsa Garden Center was founded by the Tulsa Garden Club and the Tulsa Council of Garden Clubs in 1950. In 1954, the Garden Center made its headquarters in a stunning mansion acquired from Mr. W.G. Skelly. The mansion was designed by Tulsa architect Nobel B. Fleming and was originally built from 1919 to 1921 for Mr. David Travis, who owned an oil field equipment salvage business. The estate included the main mansion (21 rooms and 10 bathrooms), two five-room cottages, two barns, two greenhouses, a solarium, and a swimming pool. The overall site was designed and constructed in an eclectic naturalistic style which harmonizes with the surrounding park. Not long after its completion, J. Arthur Hull purchased the property in 1923 and added the 'Lord and Burnham' Conservatory and a sunken garden. In 1934, Mr. George Snedden and his wife Geraldine bought the property and renovated the interior with help from interior decorator Louis Perry. The Snedden's were the last residents of the mansion. In 1950, they sold the property to Mr. W.G. Skelly who never resided there and sold it to the City of Tulsa in 1954. Today, the Tulsa Garden Center serves as an educational facility and resource for those interested in horticulture. In 2006, the Linnaeus Teaching Garden was added. It provides free demonstrations and lectures about gardening to the public.

Sources: Parks Department, City of Tulsa, Oklahoma,
<http://www.cityoftulsa.org/recreation/parks/> (accessed May 1, 2009).

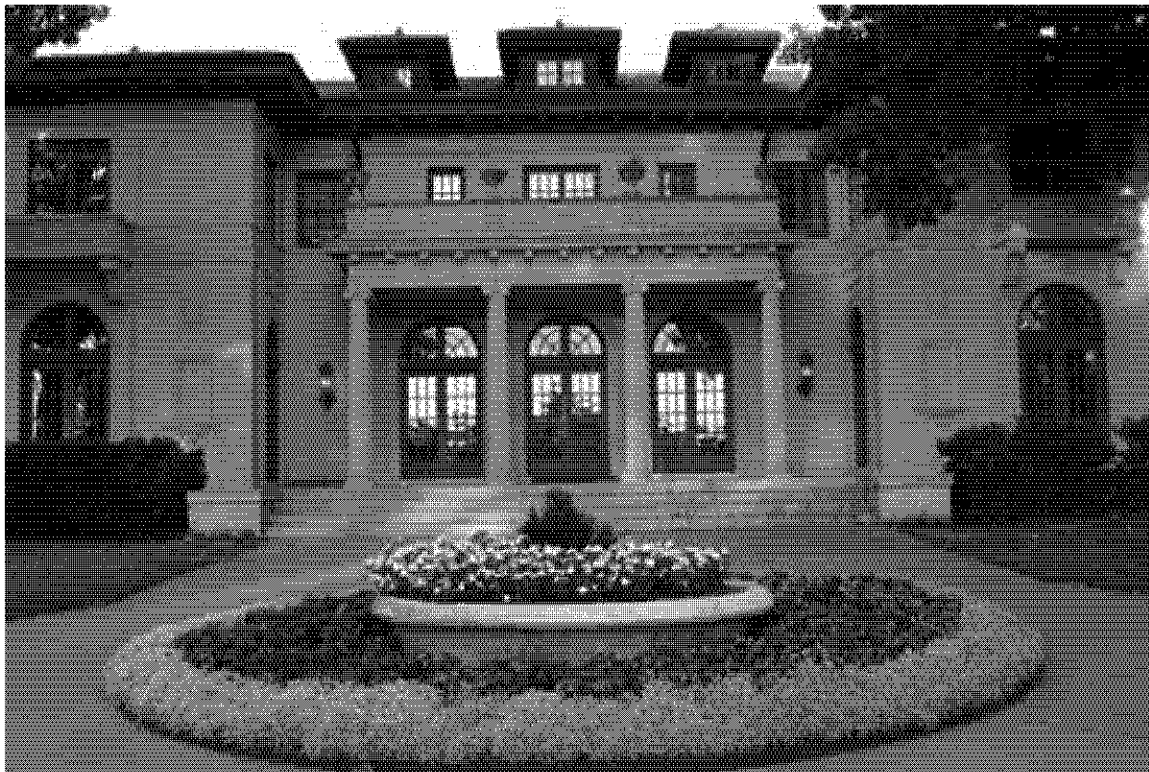
"Tulsa Garden Center," <http://www.tulsagardencenter.com/> (accessed May 1, 2009).

"Woodward Park Complex: Municipal Rose Garden,"

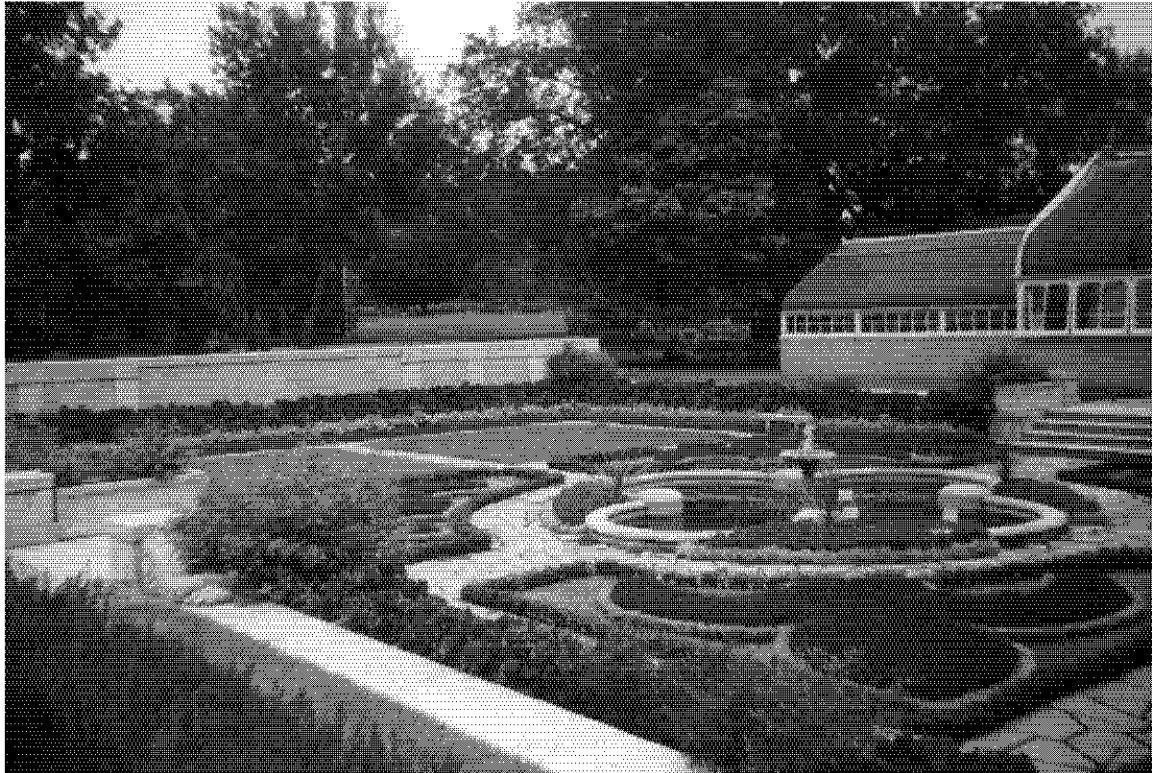
<http://www.tulsagardencenter.com/htdocs/WWParkComplex/wwpcomplex.htm>
(accessed May 1, 2009).

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View of mansion. Source: <http://www.tulsagardencenter.com/> (accessed May 2, 2009).



Sunken garden behind house (Steve Eilers, 2009).